



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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## **SEMINOLE COUNTY MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR STEALING THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT BENEFITS OF HIS DECEASED MOTHER**

Orlando, FL - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that U.S. District Judge G. Kendall Sharp today sentenced Stephen Mark Weber (age 57, of Fern Park) to twenty months in federal prison for stealing federal retirement benefits. The Court also ordered the defendant to pay restitution of \$175,881.98 and to be placed on supervised release for three years after serving his sentence of confinement. Weber pleaded guilty on September 29, 2010 to theft of government benefits.

According to court documents, Weber's mother received federal Civil Service Retirement System benefits as the surviving spouse of a Civil Service retiree until her death on October 12, 1999. Then, from October 1999 until April 2006, Weber continued to collect his mother's monthly Civil Service benefits, collecting a total of \$175,881.98. In order to complete the theft, Weber closed the account into which his mother's Civil Service benefits were being electronically deposited prior to her death, and then redirected those funds into other accounts that he controlled. In order to redirect the electronic deposit of the Civil Service benefits, Weber forged his deceased mother's name on a document sent to the United States Office of Personnel Management.

This case was investigated by the United States Office of Personnel Management, Office of the Inspector General, and the United States Secret Service. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel C. Irick.